expenditure on subsidies on items like food, fertilizers and for export promotion/market development will be Rs. 8454 crores during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the likely impact of such subsidy on price situation; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to stop giving such subsidies or at least curtial the same so as to reduce the burden on the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir. These are based on Budget 1989-90 figures.

(b) and (c) Subsidies given to consumers are meant for price stabilisation. If such subsidies are withdrawn, prices of the relevant commodities will rise. Subsidy for exports promotes exports. Increased exports improve balance of payments position enabling imports to offset domestic shortages which in turn benefits overall growth and price stability. It is however, always the endeavour of the Government to keep down the subsidies to the minimum level possible, so as to curtail the burden on the exchequer.

Khusro Committee Report on Agricultural credit

327. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the Khusro Committee Report on Agricultural credit submitted to Government in 1989;

(b) whether Government have accepted any of its recommendations; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) to (c) The Agriculture Credit Review Committee (Chairman— Prof. A.M. Khusro), has reviewed the rural financial system in the country and evaluated the major problems and issues currently affecting the same. It has made wide range of recommendations for improving the quality of credit and strengthening its efficiency and effectiveness. The Report is under consideration of the Government and Reserve Bank of India.

Delay in handling Government Accounts by Nationalised Banks

328. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any random study has been made to ascertain the annual losses suffered due to the delay in handling Government accounts by the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) it so, what are the details thereof stating the number of public sector banks where such a study was conducted and the amount of loss detected to have been suffered annually due to delay in handling Government accounts; and

(c) whether Government have critically examined the causes for the delay; if so, what ramedial measures have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) The schemes for the receipt of Government dues on account of direct taxes and indirect taxes by designated nationalised banks in addition to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and State Bank of India (SBI) were introduced by the Government with effect from 1st April, 1976 and 1st April, 1977 respectively. In terms of the exist-